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What is "Kyurizukai"?



"Kyurizukai" in possession of the Keio University Fukuzawa Institute

The title of this PR bulletin is "New Kyurizukai." This title owes to the book entitled "Kinmo Kyurizukai" published by Yukichi Fukuzawa in 1868. The book is claimed to be the first book on science in Japan. "Kinmo" means "Teaching the young and beginners in an easy-to-understand way" while "Kyuri" signifies "physics in a broad sense" – identical with what we call science today. If translated into a contemporary title, it may be something like "Illustrated easy introduction to science."

The book takes up phenomena such as heat, air, water, gravitational pull, solar eclipse and lunar eclipse, giving explanations for their principles with illustrations.

Though the book mentions books on physics from America and England as original sources, specific examples made to be easily understood by Japanese readers back in those days were all worked out by Fukuzawa himself.

When young in the closing days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Fukuzawa studied the latest in science at the "Teki-juku" school of

western learning in Osaka which was opened by the medical doctor Koan Ogata. He keenly felt the importance of "logical thinking" that underlies the advanced western civilization.

The Japanese public in those days understood astronomy and weather phenomena based on the superstitious "Onyo-Gogyo" theory imported from ancient China.

It is safe to say that Fukuzawa taught the Japanese how to "think logically" through this scientific reading.

While Fukuzawa is well known as a philosopher, enlightenment advocator and an educator, this book attests to the fact that he was also a superb science journalist with the ability to "interpret difficult things and put it in writing that could be easily understood."

In our 21st-century society, science and technology are becoming increasingly diverse and difficult. Keio University Faculty of Science and Technology intends to disseminate information on its research works, getting back to the origin as advocated in "Kyurizukai."

Science and Technology Information

KEIO TECHNO-MALL 2009

The 10th KEIO TECHNO-MALL held under the theme "Shaping the Future through Science" <http://www.kll.keio.ac.jp/ktm/>

December 11 (Fri.), 2009 (10:00 ~ 17:00); Tokyo International Forum (Halls B7 & B5)

Admission free, no prior registration required

KEIO TECHNO-MALL is an annual science and technology exhibition held by the Keio Leading-edge Laboratory of Science and Technology (KLL). It introduces a diversity of research results and new technologies developed by Keio University with some 70 booths for demonstrations and exhibits. As the tenth year milestone, this year's event concurrently featured: a talk session by guests invited from the industrial circles and the administration who talked about the future of industry-academia collaboration; 14 seminars on technologies based on such collaboration; and two round-table sessions.

Science and Technology Information from Keio

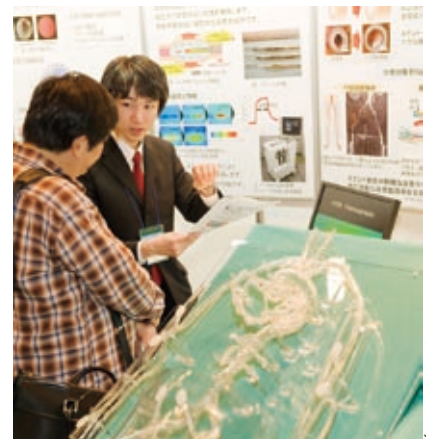
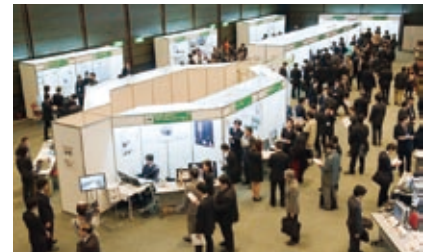
Movies released on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/user/keiouiversity>

Keio has begun YouTube distribution of its science and technology information! Each movie (3 to 5 minutes in duration) focuses on one of the many research projects being undertaken by laboratories of the Faculty of Science and Technology. Also recommended is a video (45 minutes) on a lecture "Fantastic science and technology from Keio" by Prof. Kohei Ito of the Department of Applied Physics and Physico-Informatics, targeting high school students. Video contents will be added in succession.

Editor's postscript

The launch of this new PR bulletin was first proposed in the spring of 2009. The idea behind issuing the bulletin was how we would be able to disseminate the Faculty of Science and Technology's research results and efforts in enjoyable and attractive ways. The first issue of the Japanese version was completed and delivered to everyone in December 2009 when streets were brightly decorated for the Holidays and the New Year just around the corner. We would like this bulletin to highlight our front-line research scientists who are most absorbed in their works, by having them talk about the fun of their pursuits. Also, by introducing some of their private side, we would like to portray their human touches so that people can feel closer to them.

Assistant Professor Ushiba, featured in the inaugural issue, is such a resourceful person that he came up with one idea after another during our meeting – too quick for us to note them down. He is so energetic and visits the School of Medicine or companies almost every day, making it difficult for us to interview him! But we are confident the inaugural issue successfully conveyed the energetic atmosphere of this up-and-coming scientist. The next issue (Japanese version) is scheduled for publication at the end of January 2010. It will feature a female researcher specializing in administration engineering. We are sure you will enjoy it.



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